

Eight Hours Plus

Students put in extra time

*H*is alarm clock goes off at 5:30 a.m. He drags himself out of bed and into the shower. He gulps down a quick glass of orange juice just in time to hop on his bus. When he gets to school, he wanders around for 45 minutes, and waits for his friends. After school, he walks down to the locker room to dress for baseball practice. He finally arrives at his house around 8:30 p.m. He falls into bed, fast asleep, without doing his homework or eating dinner. Does this scenario sound familiar? It may.

For some students, going early to school or staying after may be a personal decision. Junior **Jennifer Surrett** played on the varsity basketball team, and during the off season she stayed after school to work out.

"Everyday I run about three miles, lift weights three days a week, and play basketball," said Surrett. "Sometimes I run stairs and jump rope."

When junior **Amy Sears** comes to school early, it was also a personal choice.

"Sometimes I come early to check out how my glaze turned out on my pots," explained Sears. "Mr. Witt doesn't get to school until about ten till eight, so I walk around for about ten minutes and talk to people."

Sometimes, staying after school is not a decision, it's required. For example, students in biology have to stay after school to make up work they missed.

"I missed one day because of senior ditch day, and I went to Ball State another day," said senior **Danielle Kovcsi**. "I went in for biology after school to dissect my fetal pig, and Mrs. Carmichael was there to make sure I knew what I was doing. I was there about an hour, and I totally understood after that. I'm glad she makes us stay after. It shows she cares."

School was longer than eight hours for some students. The day didn't just include classes and lunch. While some were able to leave at 2:55, others were seen hanging around playing a sport, working out, or making up missed work.

-Melissa White



*A*tempting to finish his homework, sophomore **William Gomez** puts the finishing touches on as sophomore **Chris Ray** looks on. Before school was often spent finishing up forgotten homework
-Tony Papa

Loading groceries, senior Kathy Carnahan lifts them into a customer's truck. Carnahan chose to work at Strack & Van Til for I.C.E.

-Tony Papa

Handing over some change, senior Bill Carroll spends his morning running the DECA store. Carroll also served as president of DECA and was an I.C.E. member.

-Tony Papa



Sketching a portrait, senior Justin Schwier puts on the finishing touches during his I.R. Schwier was the designer of the cover of the '96-'97 Reflector.

-Mike Podgorny



Takin' a Break

I.R. and I.C.E. provide escapes

What would it be like to take an hour out of your school schedule to catch up on extra work? Or how about getting to leave after lunch to go to work? Some students were able to do these things. A student taking an Independent Research, or I.R., got to spend an hour doing a teacher-assigned project, and a student in Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education, or I.C.E., got to leave school any time after fourth hour, depending on how many credits were needed, to work at their place of employment.

Junior **Vanessa Cutka**, sports editor for the *Reflector*, found herself staying in for lunch and after school working on her yearbook layouts. So she decided to drop a class second semester and take a yearbook I.R.

"I got so much done after I took an I.R.," said Cutka. "I didn't have to stay after school until six or stay in at lunch. I got it all done in class and during my I.R."

Senior **Julie Lang** joined I.C.E. to work and receive school credits at the same time. She worked at Menards.

"I didn't have to do anything special to join I.C.E. I just had to make sure my job was stable and that my supervisor did not mind filling out evaluation sheets every nine weeks," said Lang.

Even though these students got to escape from the normal school day for an hour or two, they still had to work hard to get the job done and to get their credits for graduation.

-Melissa White



Painting Jabba the Hutt's eye, junior **Noah Zondor** finishes up in his ceramics I.R. Zondor modeled his project from a Jabba the Hutt drawing and toy.

Amy Sears

Powered Learning

Building a future

The morning is jam packed with hard classes that involve a lot of homework and demanding hours of study. Then came the first I.T.E. class where the students were not forced to sit at a desk all day to read and study from a textbook.

For some students involved in I.T.E. classes, being able to learn how to use the tools was a plus.

"I liked learning to use the tools and being able to work with my hands to build stuff," said junior **Robert Segally**.

The communications classes allowed the students to learn about and use different forms of communication technology.

"The thing that I like about communications the most is learning about the different ways technology is used and then trying it," said sophomore **Kevin Riese**.

Sometimes the I.T.E. classes provided an easier class in an otherwise hectic schedule for the students.


"Communications was an easy credit for me because I'm too advanced for the class and pretty much already know everything that we learned," said sophomore **Matty Jabkowski**.

Having a fun time was not the only thing that I.T.E. classes provided for the students. They also taught the students other aspects.

"I learned to get a better grasp on computers and how they affect the age of technology," said Segally.


Sometimes having a little freedom went a long way in the field of learning. The I.T.E. classes allowed the students to learn with their hands open instead of their books.

-Cindy McFadden



Measuring the length of a board, senior **Daniel Spoor** helps out in his shop class. Spoor was working on constructing a wall.

-Fay Netos



Pounding a nail into the board, junior **Patrick Eddy** works on building the top of the wall. In the construction classes, the students were allowed to work in a more relaxed atmosphere.

-Fay Netos



ending the instructions, junior Robert Day tries to figure out what he should measure. The class was working on a group project. *-Fay Netis*

luding & own a piece of green felt, sophomore Anthony Washlick helps his group to complete the project. His group designed a golf course. *-Fay Netis*



sing a ruler to trace a straight edge senior Bradley Lukas draws in the edge of the goalie box. Lukas's group designed a soccer field. *-Fay Netis*

Stressin' Out

Learning through frustration

Running to his first hour class the student barely escapes his fifth and final tardy before getting suspended. He finally gets settled and the teacher tells the class to clear their desks for a huge test. Just before the class lets out, the teacher announces that there will be a major project due Friday. The student leaves first hour feeling pressured and stressed.

Stress can come from many different places. For some people tests can be the cause for their stress.

"Preparing for and taking tests causes me to get stressed out," said junior **Jessica Slawikowski**.

Teachers can be the cause of stress for some students.

"It irritates me when teachers teach too slow, and everyone already understands how to do it, but they just don't move on," said sophomore **Joshua Hammers**.

Even students themselves can cause their classmates to get stressed out.

"Loud annoying people that don't know what they're talking about causes my stress," said senior **Monica Wirth**.

Everyone has their own way of dealing with stress. For some students it's just sorting out the problem.

"I just try to study for the test so that it's not so stressful when I take it," said Slawikowski.

Some people have a more laid back way of confronting their problems.

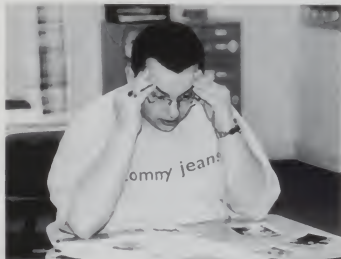
"When I get stressed I just try to laugh it off," said sophomore **Laura Huber**.

By the end of the school day, students walk out of the building looking for a way to get rid of all the stress they have accumulated throughout the day.

-Cindy McFadden

Concentrating hard in her Algebra II class, junior **Patricia Ortiz** stresses out on her homework. Homework can be a cause for stress among many students.

-Gina Menchaca



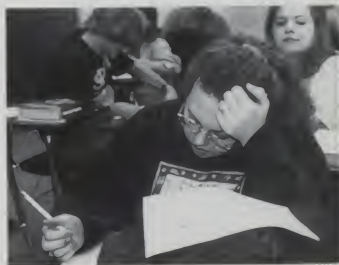
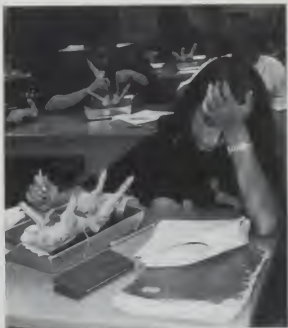
Struggling with a photo for the cover of the yearbook, senior **Mike Podgorny** nearly pulls out his hair. Podgorny was photography coordinator for both the *Reflector* and *Panther Press* staffs.

-Fay Netos



Watching over senior Adam Vaughn's shoulder, senior Jeff Smith tries to figure out how to proceed with the chest cavity. The biology students spent several weeks working on the fetal pigs. -Fay Netos

Looking between the dissection manual and the fetal pig, junior Jennifer Spiegel tries to determine what to do next. The fetal pig unit was used to stress a different way of learning in a limited amount of time. -Fay Netos



Struggling hard to understand, junior Kristin Stitt struggles through some homework. "I was frustrated over my Algebra II worksheets," said Stitt.

-Gina Menchaca

Superior Seniors

Graduating in the top ten

Knowing that you're in the top 10% of your class can make a student feel proud and accomplished, but imagine making it to be one of the top ten graduates. That's an honor earned by hard work and perseverance.

For senior **Michele Aldrin**, it was a combination between self motivation and her family's help that lifted her to fifth in her class.

"Persistence and my family's support has helped me make the top ten," said Aldrin. "My brother has always gotten good grades, so I was able to look up to him for guidance."

Senior **Christine Doyle** became valedictorian by looking toward the future.

"I want to go into premed and I knew I had to be one of the best in my class to get into the school I wanted," said Doyle.

Sometimes the push of a parent can be the determining factor when it comes down to class ranking.

"My parents pushing me to do good helped me to achieve my goal of being the top male graduate of my class," said senior **Ting Lau**.

Starting out on the right foot can make a big difference in the long run according to **David Falda**.

"The thing that helped me the most was starting out strong as a freshman, because everything builds on the beginning," said Falda.

No matter how this year top ten seniors did it, they will have graduated knowing they were the best of their class.

-Cindy McFadden

Talking at the Top Ten dinner John King, band and— senior Christine Doyle await the start of the dinner. I've always been competitive and I think that helped me to get good grades," said Doyle.

-Bryan Duney



Sitting together at the top ten dinner, senior **Meidi Terpstra** and her mother Rebecca Terpstra eat their soup. Terpstra invited Joan Bowron to the dinner for being her most admired teacher.

Bryan Duney





Taking from the lavish tray senior Katya Bartnicki, and Judy Bartnicki decides what to eat. Bartnicki placed tenth in her class.

—Bryan Duney

Feeling their plates at the top ten dinner senior Michele Aldrin and Linda Aldrin choose from an array of food. Aldrin graduated third in the class of 1997.

—Bryan Duney



Eating soup, senior Taryn Vrane sits next to her mother Florence Vrane at the Top Ten Dinner. "I never really had a goal of being in the top ten, it just happened," said Vrane.

—Bryan Duney

Field of dreams...

With complete determination, junior Shawn Andriessen, halfback, rushes through his opponents hoping to score. Andriessen received Special Mention for the 1996 Bloomington Herald Junior All-State Football Award.

Mike Podgorny



Wrestle Mania!

Trying for a win, senior Mike Callender struggles with his opponent. Callender ended the season with 31 wins, 6 losses, and 25 pins, and was also a 1997 Regional Qualifier.

Mike Podgorny

Out of my way!

Fighting a tough line of defense, junior Michelle Adame dribbles her way through the key of the court. Besides basketball, Adame also participated in soccer and softball.

Mike Podgorny





serve it up!

Concentrating on a perfect serve, senior Wendy Irvin begins another round of volleyball, while her fellow teammate senior Amy Ranta prepares for the opposing team's possible return. The volleyball team ended their season with a record 11-20. —Mike Podgorny

HEY BRIAN,

Guess
what

I got the Most Improved Player Award at the Winter Sports Banquet last night! I know it's not MVP or anything, but at least it's an award. Basketball isn't my best talent either. It's funny that I got an award for this sport and not for soccer or wrestling, my better talents. Well anyways, this season was awesome. This was the first time in 20 years that we won a sectional game! We were so hyped.

I know you felt kind of bummed, because you didn't play any sports this year, but you didn't have to go to practice everyday and listen to the coaches. You were actually able to have a life! Yeah, I know you are in a band, but I think that is a little different. Man, I wish I could have been in a band. I love the guitar. It's so bad!

My brother, Jason, used to play the guitar all the time, but then he joined the football team. Of course that took up all of his time. All he did that season was eat, sleep, and breathe football! I remember one night, he slept with a football in his arms. Oh yeah, remember that fight me and "J" got into? I used his football play book to help start a bonfire out in the woods. I didn't realize what it was. It was sitting in the back of my truck, so I used it! He never forgave me for that one. It's too bad they didn't win sectionals, but at least my brother will get a chance next year. As a sophomore, he didn't get to play much anyways.

Can you believe my sister, Melissa, isn't trying out for cheerleading this year? Cheerleading has always been her life! She wants to play other sports like volleyball or soccer. The volleyball team did so awesome this year! I think she would like that better. She's one of those girls that wants to be in everything.

So Brian, do you think that next year (over senior year) you'll go back into sports again? You always loved soccer when we were in Jr. High. Remember we used to always play in that field by Boeriger. I think you should play next year. Last season was "da bomb." Laterz, Yo!

Pete

OBSERVING a baseball game, senior Angela Bishop, baseball manager, attempts to keep warm. Bishop, who kept the statistics of each team member, was constantly trying to stay toasty because spring was unusually cold this year.

Mike Podgorny

GOING through the record book sophomore Amanda Marcus and junior Kristin Dross, track managers, take down new times for the runners. It was often necessary to update the record book as the runners were constantly improving their times.

Mike Podgorny



MANAGERS

Jeffery Bice - Girls' Soccer

Angela Bishop - Baseball

Kristin Dross - Football/Boys' Track

Trisha Fleishman - Girls' Basketball

Ginger Hartman - Boys' Basketball

Tina Heft - Boys' Basketball

Vanessa Hooper - Girls' Basketball

Anna Lafayette - Girls' Soccer

Amanda Marcus - Football

Gina Menchaca - Boys' Track

Angela Miller - Wrestling

Brenda Moore - Football/Wrestling (trainer)/Boys' Track

Angela Parent - Wrestling

Susan Purgert - Boys' Swimming/Girls' Swimming

Carrie Rex - Football/Wrestling/Boys' Track

Julie Scheeringa - Football

Melanie Scheeringa - Football

Heidi Terpstra - Baseball



K EEPIN' 'EM SANE

Managers make season less stressful

Who is the most important part of a team? Is it the coaches? The trainers? The players? The team managers believe that they are one of the most important parts of the team.

"If we weren't there, the work would be super hard on the team and the coaches," said sophomore **Amanda Marcus**, football manager. "We lessen the confusion and try to help relax the tension."

Other managers agreed that the coaches would have a hard time.

"The team would do okay, but the coaches would have lots of extra work to do and they'd have less time to spend assisting the athletes," said senior **Susan Purgert**, swimming manager. Managing isn't all work however. It can be fun too.

"It's fun to help out and be there when the team does good," said junior **Brenda Moore**, wrestling/football manager. "It's a way to be in a sport but not play the sport."

A sense of belonging is just one of the many things that can be attained through managing. Another benefit is the personal enjoyment gained.

"I get satisfaction out of knowing that I'm helping the team to do their best," said Purgert.

While the managers don't participate physically in the sport, they help to keep the sport less chaotic. The coaches' sanity and the players' success often depended on these individuals.

-Josh Martin

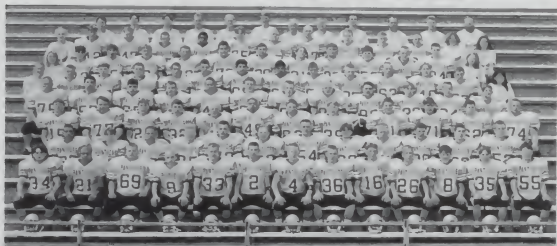


CONVERSING with Assistant Football Coach, Travis Walls, junior Brenda Moore stands near the field. "I thought it would be fun to be part of a team and get patches on my coat," said Moore.

-Mike Podgorny

BREAKING through the line, junior Thomas Grasha fights to hold on to the ball. Grasha was full-back and filled in when senior Kris Matson moved to tightend.

Mike Podgorny



FRONT ROW: Shawn Anderson, Anthony Stabolito, Chris Clark, Nick Ulrich, Tim Dula, Nick Condit, Cory Hammon, Kyle Alexander, Chris Hill, Gary Weibach, Justin Hill, Matt Pritchard, Jeff Eaton. **Second row:** Dave Lopez, Matt Nalley, Frank Gonsky, Kevin Stach, Larry Swenson, Jason Angel, Craig Platter, Shawn Mackintosh, Ryan Hill, Nathan Linder, Chris McMillan, Mike Adams. **Third row:** Mike Adams, Fourth row: Mike Adams, Matt Gave, Daniel Condit, Larry Turner, Patrick Farnham, Joe Smith, Don Levens, Jeff Steele, Adam Callahan, Todd Schultz, Joe Lavender, Dave Gonsky, Fifth row: Carter Rick (mgr.), Steve Rousselle, Matt Davis, Jason Seaver, Christian Lohr, Steve Peltz, Robert, Eric Vespene, John Kefauver, Joe Bradford, David, Andy Fowler, Julie Lyons, Carl Hadd, Chris Liborin, Julie Schwartz, (mgr.) Sixth row: Kristin Dwyer, (mgr.) Craig Kowarsky, Johnny Vargo, Jason Smith, Mike Peltz, Mike Condit, Thomas Grasha, Shane Tinch, Phillip Pitzer, Kevin Johnson, Jacob Hanson, Adam Horke, (mgr.) Mattie (mgr.) Seventh row: Scott Brown, Kevin Schaefer, Kris Matson, Jeremy Sherry, Kevin Brown, Scott Schaefer, Jim Gonsky, Michael Sherry, Steve Gonsky, Eric Farnham, (mgr.) Vespene, Mahanah Schaefer (mgr.), Pronda Moore (mgr.), Eighth row: (assistant coaches) Ray Elbow, Nick Condit, Seth Kronmeyer, Travis Wells, Tim Pritchard, Russ Rader (head coach), Bill Lavender, Ken Kowarsky, Jeff Lytle, Brian Tomson, Dan McCoy, Ted White.



RUNNING for five yards, senior Kris Matson dodges through the Trojan defensive line. The Panthers were ranked #2 in the History of the Nation for most total yards averaged per game. They finished with 458 yards per game.

Mike Podgorny



KNEELING down after a disappointing loss to Munster, senior Anthony Stabolito takes time out. The Panthers lost the sectional championship 7-0.

Mike Podgorny

LEAPING for a pass, senior Michael Sherry attempts to grab another one in the victory over Whit. Sherry was MVP in the Region One All-Stars.

Mike Podgorny





WHAT A RUSH

Panthers attack with new speed

Breaking the Indiana total offense record with 717 total yards in the opening game, the Panthers were off to an impressive start. In the second game of the season, they showed that they weren't satisfied with that. They overcame the newly established record with 743 yards. Griffith looked unstoppable or at least uncatchable according to junior **Shawn Andriessen**.

"We didn't have the size like last year," said Andriessen. "We won on speed and quickness."

Record breaking wasn't left only to the big guys. The younger players got their chance to shine too.

"It was cool because [Chris] Hitt who is only a sophomore is the one who broke the record for total offensive yards," said sophomore **Tim Duke**.

Revenge was another element of the season. After the '96 regional loss to Hobart, Griffith had their hopes set on a rematch. But after the Panthers lost to Munster in the regular season, the Mustangs moved up to the top rival spot for the sectional title. The team then dedicated the off-season to defeating this new rival and regaining Panther Pride, but, revenge was denied by Munster with a 7-0 loss in the sectional championship.

But avenging Hobart wasn't out of the picture. The Panthers would get their greatly anticipated chance in the '97 regular season. *Vanessa Cutka*

MOURNING the sectional loss to Munster, junior **Shane Radtke** drops to his knees in disbelief. Because of this disappointing defeat, the team was denied their chance to rechallenger Hobart.

Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

71	Hammond	27
	High	
64	Highland	12
7	Munster	16
54	Clark	12
33	Lowell	13
83	Calumet	0
42	Whiting	18
56	Gavit	17

Sectionals

33	Lowell	21
56	Hammond	20
	High	

Sectional Championship

0	Munster	7
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All-Conference
Shane Radtke
Thomas Grasha
Shawn Andriessen
Michael Sherry
Josh Greco
Jeremy Skura
Kris Matson
Evan Schreiber
Anthony Stabolito

Honorable Mention

Joe Bonnema
Jason Smit
Shane Tinich

BROKEN RECORDS

• Rushed for 4,060 yards
• State record for total offense in a single game
• 743 yards vs. Highland
• Number one offense for third straight year in Northwest Indiana



V Front Row: Jennifer Linders, Fran Costello, Jorie Flores, Shannon Brandon, Danielle Garnett Second Row: Kristen Thom, Karen Arehart (coach), Barbie Kender Back Row: Wendy Irvin, Amy Ranta, Natalie Miller



JV Front Row: Tracy Duncan, Emily Coddington Second Row: Shannon Swope, Jessica Everhart, Susan Huss Third Row: Meagan Clarke, Natalie Shadowen (coach), Sarah Bocan Back Row: Sara Grudzien, Suzanne Filkus, Jerry Ranta



PASSING it into the red zone, senior Amy Ranta leans in for the bump. Ranta played strong outsides and was awarded best passer and digger.

—Mike Podgorny

SPIKING the ball, senior Natalie Miller leaps high into the air. Miller played middle and was co-captain with senior Wendy Irvin and junior Jorie Flores.

—Fay Netes





SWITCHING positions, juniors Danielle Garnett and Jorie Flores exchange low fives of encouragement. "Jorie and I would do a little handshake before each serve for good luck," said Garnett. "It later became a superstitious kind of thing."
-Bryan Dunne

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

2	River Forest	0
2	E.C. Central	0
0	Michigan City	2
0	Andean	2
1	Hebron	2
0	Merrillville	2
1	North Newton	2
1	Hanover	2
1	Hobart	2
2	Morton	0
0	Crown Point	2
2	Whiting	0
2	Lake Station	0
0	Munster	2
2	Whiting	0
2	Wirt	0
2	Hanover	0
0	Gavit	2
2	Calumet	0
0	Valparaiso	2
2	Hammond	1
0	Bishop Noll	2
0	West Side	2
1	Clark	2
0	Highland	2
0	Lowell	2
Sectional		
0	Highland	2

RISING ABOVE

Volleyball girls serve up wins

For athletes, most join for a specific reason. Some are influenced by professional athletes, while others are influenced by hundreds of other reasons. But for sophomore **Jenny Ranta**, it was her sister.

"I have been playing for five years," said Ranta. "I watched all my sister's games and thought it looked like fun."

While practicing hard for big time rivals Munster and Highland, the team took a humorous approach to day long practices.

"This year, one day before the season began we took a trip to the beach and grubbed at Shakey's," said Ranta. "Our bus drivers were always crazy."

The successful team worked hard to get the kinks out of '95's varsity season of 7-19. The '96 season, concentrating on cooperation and teamwork, brought the record to 11-20.

Even though all season's have to end, most don't end without a tear. The memories of a win or tragic loss stay a lifetime.

"I was discouraged after the loss to Highland," said junior **Jennifer Linders**. "I know we didn't play our very best."

Making their goals, the volleyball players worked together to keep the intensity alive and never gave up.

-Tony Papu



V Front Row: Derek Blythe, Shane Hudnall, Tony Doctor, Dale Rudzinski, Todd Doctor Second Row: Jeremy Buzea, Keith Loudenber, Dan Ahart, Steve Long, Ryan Towasnicki, Brian Farrenkopf, Pete Wojcik Back Row: Craig Sims, Chris Troksa, Matt Banke, Coach Ron Knestrict, Adam King, Brad Lukas, Craig Konopasek



JV Front Row: Shawn Zolcak, Justin Albright, Chad Lukas, Colin Banta, George Scott, Everett Mull Back Row: Brian Sowinski, Paul Blahunka, David Caruahan, Ron Knestrict (coach), Jared Wojcik, Matt Michels, Joe Homoky



COMPROMISING, senior Pete Wojcik quenches his thirst after an unsuccessful search for a paper cup. The Highland game was tied and going into overtime but the guys managed a victory.

Mike Podgorny

KICKING the ball around, senior Brad Lukas moves it down the field. The seniors were an influential part of the soccer team. Players were allowed more control of the season with seniors leading the way.

Mike Podgorny





LOOKING on in disbelief, senior Dan Ahart is held back by freshman Colin Banta after being kicked out of the game against Highland. "I was mad because they took a goal away from us and it could have changed the game," said Ahart. "I got kicked out for arguing about it."

Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

0	Munster	4
1	Hobart	2
1	Morton	3
5	Crown Point	0
5	Hammond High	0
2	Andrean	2
5	Merrillville	3
1	Gavit	0
2	Portage	8
4	Highland	2
3	Lake Central	1
0	Chesterton	4
1	Bishop Noll	2
9	Lowell	0
1	Clark	0
1	Valparaiso	6

Sectionals

1	Munster	0
4	Highland	3
4	Morton	2

Regionals

0	Lake Central	2
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ON THEIR OWN

Guys try a new approach to season

Leadership is key to any team. It pulls a team together to meet their common goal: winning. The boys' soccer team experienced this leadership hands-on throughout the season.

"He [the coach] let us run our own team," said senior **Steve Long**. "We had a lot of good leaders."

This new coaching approach proved effective as the season progressed.

"When he let us run the team, we did really good," said Long.

Records improved and the guys even won sectionals for the first time ever in Griffith's history.

"It was great," said junior **Tony Doctor**. "It was the first time I've ever been on a team that's gone anywhere."

Even though they did have a "winning season", not all players agreed with the change in leadership.

"I didn't like the seniors being in charge," said junior **Keith Loudember**. "It should've been everyone as equals and we would've played better."

Although losing four leaders, the team expects to continue to do well as long as someone takes charge.

-Vanessa Cutka



V Front Row: Caryn Miller, Allison Gatlin, Michelle Adame, Lora Melton Second Row: Jeff Bice (manager), Heather Cundliff, Lindsay Vrane, Tania Fliter, Lisa Cundliff, Taryn Vrane Back Row: Vickie Negrete (assistant coach), Beth Hudacin, Trisha Verbich, Michelle Blessing, Angie Miller, Deanna Westerfield, Melissa Peterson, Becky Ryhne, Raul Dominguez (head coach)



J Front Row: Amie Kielbasa, Diana Ballas, Angela Parent, Katie Lafayette, Carrie Blount Second Row: Jeff Bice (manager), Claire Hudacin, Colleen Vechey, Jessica Pavich, Tammy Heft, Kara Kmiec Back Row: Jenny Spiegle, Laura Worley, Nancy Robles, Vickie Negrete (coach), Melissa Hart, Julie Newman, Sena Govert



APPROACHING the sideline, senior Deanna Westerfield throws the ball in. Westerfield played midfielder and was team captain. *Mike Podgorny*

PASSING it back, junior Tania Fliter kicks the ball to a teammate. She led the team in scoring with 17 goals, 17 assists and 20 steals during the season. *Mike Podgorny*





HAVING A BALL

Girls shoot for common goal

"Kill, kill! Hate, hate! Murder, murder! Mutilate! Let's go Griffith!"

Sounds of enthusiasm echoed through the stands as the girls' soccer team got fired up for another game. Not only did they communicate their excitement to the crowd, they expressed it to each other as well.

"This year our team really worked as a team, not as individual superstars," said senior **Angie Miller**. An increased number of new players gave the girls a chance to make friends they otherwise may have never met.

"Since we really didn't know each other personally, we connected on the field," said Miller. These additions proved to be valuable as the team grew together. Having a lot of previous experience, the younger players played their roles well.

"It helped a lot because they already knew the fundamentals and we were able to work on more advanced things," said junior **Tania Fliter**.

Personality and age differences had some of the athletes doubting their potential.

"I think our differences actually improved our team because our different styles of play had to come together," said senior **Beth Hudacin**.

Determination and communication built lasting friendships and led to a record season. -*Vanessa Cutka*

CHASING the ball, junior **Michelle Blessing** plays offense against the **Chesterton Trojans**. Offense improved with the girls scoring 49 goals compared to last year's 25. The season ended with an overall record of 9-8. -*Fay News*

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

3	Highland	1
1	Chesterton	2
3	Michigan City	0
7	Bishop Noll	1
4	Valparaiso	0
3	Munster	1
0	Merrillville	6
2	Highland	0
1	Crown Point	2
1	Lake Central	7
4	Hobart	1
5	Munster	1
6	LaPorte	1
2	Andrean	5
9	Bishop Noll	1

MVP

Tania Fliter

GOING THE DISTANCE

Boys run the extra mile

The thought of lungs collapsing wasn't exactly the best recruiting technique to get students to join the boys' cross country team, but people still seemed to want to run. Although the team still didn't have all the runners that they wanted, they still kept their act together and did their best.

Around the time of the race many other different thoughts, like how much they prepared for it, were flying through their heads.

"Before the race I think about how much I practiced and how much more and how much harder I practiced than everyone else," said senior **Steve Lehmann**.

Many different thoughts came to mind when members of the team thought about what cross country meant to them, even the thought of lungs collapsing.

"The feeling of my lungs collapsing, my heart exploding and my ankles breaking as I crossed the finish line come to my mind when I think of cross country," explained sophomore **Ian Wotkun**.

After all the races are done and all the medals have been handed out and everyone has gone home the only thought left to feel is self-satisfaction.

-Sara Biehl



FRONT ROW: Jason Tomcsi, Jeremy Bratton, Mark Eaton, Chris Brookhart **Back row:** Chris Ramanof (assistant coach), Rick Smith, Paul Passini, Dan Anderson, Steve Lehmann, Ian Wotkun, Bernie Zeman (head coach)

FOR THE RECORD

	GHS	OPP.
21	Highland Morton	33 40
51	Gavit Munster	37 38
30	Bishop Noll Hammond High	37 49
32	Clark Calumet	58 61
	Whiting	63
3rd	Gavit Invite	
17th	New Prairie	
7th	Highland Invite	
5th	Hobart Invite	
5th	Sectionals	
8th	Regionals	
	State	
	Steve Lehmann	



ENTERING the cross country scene, Steve Lehmann came in first place in Conference.
—Fay Netos

RELAXING before a meet, senior Dan Anderson listens to a little bit of AC/DC to clear his mind. Anderson always did this little ritual before every single one of his meets.
—Mike Podgorny



MUNCHING on some watermelon after the Gavitt invite, sophomore Jeremy Bratton relaxes in the sun. This was Bratton's first year on the cross country team.

—Angela Summers

RUNNING AS ONE

Unity Helps Girls Finish Ahead

Look at all those girls with their hair braided says one girl pointing at a cross country team. I bet they're from Griffith says another. Oh yeah, I heard they're all really close.

Cross Country is an individual sport. Although meets were won as a team, how well each girl did depended on her alone. This attracted many girls to the sport.

"I like cross country because it's individual, like if you do good it's all because of you," said sophomore **Carrie Hanchar**.

While each girl strived to do the best she could, the experienced seniors on the team helped the underclassmen to do their best.

"The seniors really encourage you, and push you to go harder," said Hanchar.

Since there was such a small number of girls on the team this year, the members really bonded together.

"The team was more united," said senior **Amy Belcher**. "We had less people, and it was easier to talk to everybody."

The team had a party for Conference, where they braided their hair and ate carbo-packed spaghetti for extra energy.

"We all braided our hair so we were like a matched set," commented Belcher.

-Allison Cierman



Front Row: Amy Belcher, Laura Zagrocki, Amy Zagrocki, Samantha Adame Second Row: Angela Summers, Jessica Meece, Bernie Zemen(coach), Darci Biesczat, Kara Moore Not pictured: Carrie Hanchar, Mary Belcher

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

	Lowell	33
79	Andrean	57
	Merrillville	65

8th Gavit Invite

11th T.F.South
Invite

31	Highland	27
	Morton	49

40	Gavit	32
	Munster	2

10th NewPrairie
Invite

33	Bishop Noll	21
	Hammond	57

	Clark	32
33	Calumet	51
	Whiting	60

9th Highland
Invite

4th Conference

4th Sectionals

10th Regionals



BRAIDING for team spirit, freshman Samantha Adame gives senior Amy Zagrocki a new look for sectionals. The girls held a spaghetti dinner at senior Angela Summers' house in order to prepare for their meet where the team placed third.
-Angela Summers

STRETCHING before their conference meet, senior Angela Summers, sophomore Carrie Hanchar, freshman Samantha Adame, and sophomore Laura Zagrocki warm-up for the race. This was Zagrocki's only meet due to a leg injury.
-Fay Nietes



LEADING the pack, senior Jessica Meece runs for the finish line at Dowling Park where the Conference meet was held. Meece placed first at Conference for the second year in a row.
-Rebecca Lefell

SERVING UP THE BEST

Season adds fun to game for boys' tennis

While they focused on strengthening their skills, the boys' tennis team had a blast.

"We worked hard, but had as much fun as possible," said junior **Mike Kelley**.

Friendships were built and differences put aside when they stepped out onto the court.

"There was very good team unity this year," said senior **David Falda**.

"Everyone got along really well, and we did many things together besides play tennis."

Proof of their devotion came through increased wins, including Andrean which they hadn't beaten in 11 years, and also finishing over Highland for the first time ever. Although according to junior **Steve McGuire**, attitude was as critical as skill.

"A good team consists of dedicated players with a positive attitude and as long as skill is good, the team should be successful," said McGuire.

The team already had its focus set for next season.

"We want to improve so we can win it all next year," said junior **Ryan Melton**.

Extra practice on their own, including a few late nights at Matchpoint strengthened the team's skill and unity. -*Vanessa Cutka*



Front row: Mike Zolcak, Ryan Melton, Dave Falda, Bill Carroll, John Hanson Back Row: Steve McGuire, Ryan Gettig, Mike Kelley, Tim Maluga (coach), Matt Sherry, Eddie Covarrubias, John Neighbors Not pictured: Eric Lacz

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

3	Andrean	2
0	Lake Central	5
5	Morton	0
5	Hammond	0
4	Gavit	1
3	River Forest	2
3	Bishop Noll	2
5	E.C. Central	0
1	Portage	4
5	Calumet	0
0	Munster	5
3	Bishop Noll	2
3	Highland	2
0	Munster	5

Sectionals

5	Calumet	0
0	Crown Point	5

"The second- place finish in conference was the highest finish in 37 years for a GHS boys' tennis team in conference," said Coach **Tim Maluga**.



FOCUSING on the ball, junior Ryan Melton serves the other in the match against Lowell. Melton played third singles on varsity and first junior varsity. —Mike Podgorny

WAITING as his partner junior Steve McGuire serves, senior John Neighbors eyes their opponents. The two played doubles and took first place at the Lake Station Invitational Tournament. —Mike Podgorny



RETURNING the ball, junior Ryan Gettig concentrates on his follow-through. Gettig played first doubles with his partner Mike Kelley. They won first and second doubles at the Lake Station Invite. —Mike Podgorny

REACHING higher ground on the basketball court, the entire squad helps to announce the starting lineup before a boys' basketball game. The girls attended both home and away games to cheer on the basketball team.

-Mike Podgorny



FRONT ROW: Laura Johnson, Karen Jensen, Danielle Kovecsi, Angela Stout, Amanda Kasper, Jenny Vaznonis Back Row: Joan Doppler, Mandi Messinio, Nicole Voges, Tennille Grasha, Megan Harveth, Jill Havlin



GROOVIN' to the music, sophomores Nicole Voges, Amanda Kasper and senior Danielle Kovecsi dance to the electric slide before a football game against Lowell. The girls also performed the Macarena and the Chicken Dance before football games.

-Mike Podgorny

SPORTIN' a 'tude, junior Karen Jensen along with the rest of the cheerleaders perform a dance to "Bad to the Bone" during the homecoming Pep Rally. Jensen served as secretary of the squad during the '96-'97 season.

-Mike Podgorny





BUNDLED up from head to toe, junior Jill Havlin protects herself from the frigid weather at the Munster football sectionals. "It was hard to cheer that night because we had so many layers of clothing on," said Havlin.

-Mike Podgorny



NEW YORK, NEW YORK!

While most people were feasting on turkey for Thanksgiving, senior Danielle Kovcesi and junior Angie Stout dined on nachos and cheese at T.G.I. Friday's in New York City. Both girls were two of 1,000 other girls chosen to cheer in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. During their seven day stay in the Big Apple, the girls visited the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, saw *Miss Saigon* and went shopping on Fifth Avenue. Their trip wasn't all fun and games, however.

"We practiced three times a day, at least," said Kovcesi.

On the day of the parade, the anticipation to perform was building and it wasn't until a few hours later that the girls could finally show the audience their routines.

"It was about a three-and-a-half mile walk into the parade before we did our routine in front of Macy's. It was so exciting," said Stout.

CATCH ME IF I FALL

Cheerleaders take spirit to new heights

Imagine being thrust thirty feet in the air, looking down and having faith that the people below will catch you when you come back down. Trust is believing that you can depend on someone, and it was something that every cheerleader had to deal with whenever they performed stunts during practices and basketball games.

"You have to trust your teammates to catch you when you go up (into a stunt) or else you'll fall and get all bruised up," said junior Megan Harveth.

But sometimes it's not easy to keep that person from falling.

"At practice we drop people a lot because when we try something new, it's really hard to keep the person up. They have to do it right, too," said sophomore Tennille Grasha.

Even if the stunter and the lifters do everything right, complications can still occur.

"Once during practice, I was going up into a liberty and I fell on Amanda (Kasper's) nose," said junior Karen Jensen. "She ended up having to go to the hospital."

After perfecting their stunts, the cheerleaders then use them to grab the crowd's attention and pump them up.

"When the crowd sees us, they wonder if we'll fall," said junior Mandi Messinio. "And if we do something they don't expect it's even better."

By surprising their audience and drawing the attention to themselves, the cheerleaders were able to utilize their cheering skills and help support the athletic teams.

-Lydia Whitehead



V Front Row: Michelle Adame, Jorie Flores, Becky Rhyne, Sarah Bacan, Samantha Kataro, Tania Fliter, Emily Coddington, Vanessa Hooper Back Row: Greg (Radar) Petroski(coach), Tim Powers(coach), Jenny Surrett, Lisa Crismon, Karrie Green, Wendy Irvin, Amber Farr, Natalie Shadowen(coach), Trisha Fleischman



JV Front Row: Annie Medsker, Jamie Kunkemoeller, Jodie Kunkemoeller, Danyel Porter, Carin Miller, Samantha Adame Second Row: Gordon Dilling(coach), Trisha Verbich, Nancy Robles, Elaine Parker, Kristen Oros, Nikki Plaskonka



LOOKING out for the perfect pass, freshman Emily Coddington tries to make sure that she doesn't lose the ball to the other team. Coddington was the only freshman on the varsity team.

-Mike Podgorny



GOING for the gold, senior Lisa Crismon swishes a perfect two-pointer against Bishop Noll at home. Crismon had been on the varsity basketball team since her sophomore year.

-Mike Podgorny

PEELING herself off of the floor after a nasty foul, junior **Tania Fliter** attempts to regain her once had composure. This was Fliter's third year playing basketball for the Lady Panthers. *-Mike Podgorny*

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

32 Highland 45

26 Lake Station 29

34 Lowell 38

48 Bishop Noll 57

19 Calumet 22

45 Munster 64

41 Morton 46

28 River Forest 41

49 Hammond High 59

33 Wheeler 58

41 Hanover Central 45

45 Gavit 53

24 Kankakee Valley 55

64 Gary Roosevelt 53

51 Clark 41

40 Hebron 41

45 Whiting 28

Sectionals

35 Highland 53

GIVING IT ALL

Lady Panthers overcome obstacles

Lady Panthers are on the prowl. The girls were very competitive throughout the whole season, including sectionals.

"This year we had a lot more intensity and pushed each other harder," said junior **Jorie Flores**.

This season was a building process for the team. The team had a lot of obstacles to overcome. No matter what grade they were in, the girls had to have the younger ones step up and show leadership.

"This year it was hard because there wasn't a lot of varsity experience," said Coach **Tim Powers**, "there were four freshmen on the team."

The girls have already set major goals for next season. They have set their mind to stay focused throughout all four quarters.

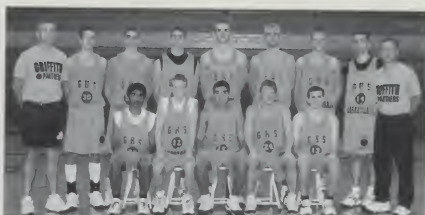
"We need to build our self-confidence in order to dominate the game better," said senior **Wendy Irvin**.

Next season the competition will be taking Griffith more seriously. They will have a more productive season.

"The other teams that we will be playing next season will have more respect for our game," said Powers, "they will feel that we are a bigger challenge."

The Lady Panthers are trying to crawl their way to the top. You could see the commitment in the faces of the team.

-Meagan Clarke



V Front Row: Jay Dasgupta, Adam King, Rene Reyna, Rick Smith, Andrew Kohut Back Row: Tom Wells (head coach), Tony Nelson, Kevin Schaller, Jim Terpstra, Michael Sherry, Danny Anderson, Kris Matson, Daniel Falda, Bill Smith (assistant coach)



JV Front Row: Brian Farrenkopf, David Lopez, Ian Flores, Tim Turkowski, Andrew Kohut, Jeremy Bratton, Erick Maciszak, Back Row: Eric Schilling (head coach), Christopher Troksa, Matthew Banke, Patrick Fuentes, David Carnahan, Rene Reyna, Matthew Flannery, Joshua Fisher



SHOOTING the ball over a Whiting guard, senior Kevin Schaller looks for a teammate. The original game against Whiting was cancelled due to the harsh cold.

Mike Podgorny



GOING for a shot during a sectional game against Morton, senior Kris Matson sets his focus on the basket. Griffith beat Morton to advance to the semi-finals where they lost to Calumet. *Mike Podgorny*

ATTEMPTING a basket, senior Michael Sherry gets his shot blocked by a Calumet defender. The Panthers lost the game 64-60.

-Mike Podgorny





FLYING HIGH

Team soars to a new level

Crushing opponents Munster and Crown Point, the boys' basketball team finished 12-8 in the regular season and accomplished some impressive goals.

Many of the players felt that the season started off slow, but it steadily improved.

"We started out a little rough," said sophomore **Jim Terpstra**, "but we came together at the end. We probably could've eliminated our turnovers earlier in the season."

Teammates agreed that there were things that could have been improved throughout the season.

"We could have won more away games," said senior **Jay Dasgupta**. "Towards the end of those games we'd mentally break down. We were pumped up but we came out a little flat."

Despite this mental breakdown, the team managed to give off enough energy to pull off a conference record of 5-4, their first winning conference record in 21 years.

"It was neat because I'm a sophomore being part of the best team in 21 years," said Terpstra. "Plus, it was nice after having a horrible conference record last year."

But that was as far as they got. The team ended their charge with a 69-56 defeat by Calumet in the sectional semi-finals.

"It was disappointing," said Terpstra. "It would have been nice to win it with the seniors."

Even after some of their more celebrated wins, senior **Danny Anderson** thought that having fun was the greatest thing about the season.

"As a team, we had fun even when we were losing," said Anderson. -Vanessa Cutka/Josh Martin

PASSING the ball around an opponent, junior **Dan Falda** waits for an opening. This was Falda's first full season on varsity although he played a few varsity games the previous year.

Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

<u>GHS</u>	<u>OPP.</u>	
56	Gavit	58
71	Kankakee Vallley	59
60	Calumet	64
74	Hanover	87
85	Morton	64
69	Highland	71
82	Munster	67
66	Lake Station	49
74	River Forest	63
62	Hammond	71
59	Wheeler	56
80	Hebron	49
57	Highland	54
50	Hobart	65
63	Bishop Noll	71
59	Lowell	62
66	Clark	62
74	Whiting	49
93	Munster	74
89	Crown Point	75
60	Morton	58
56	Calumet	69

TRYING to free himself from the grasp of his opponent, junior Shawn Andriessen wiggles his way out of the hold. Andriessen placed first in Sectionals and second in Regionals. He also qualified for Semi-state and was a first round winner.

—Mike Podgorny



Front Row: Angie Miller (mgr.), Michael Zolcak, Anthony Papa, Todd Doctor, Keith Henman, John Hanson, Angela Parent (mgr.) Second Row: Carrie Rex (mgr.), Michael Tsirtsis, Timothy Duke, Justin Cadle, Jeffrey Vessel, Anthony Washick, Shawn Andriessen, Brenda Moore (trainer) Third Row: John Hanson (asst. coach), Brent Bol, Matthew Schroeder, Aaron Jensen, Michael Biernani, Pete Gniadek, Todd Shultz, Klye Alexander, Cory Rakes Fourth Row: Russ Radtke (asst. coach), Johnny Vargo, Evan Schreiber, Michael Callender, Joseph Bonnema, Michael Grash, Ben Loudember, Travis Walls (head coach) Not Pictured: Shawn Pike



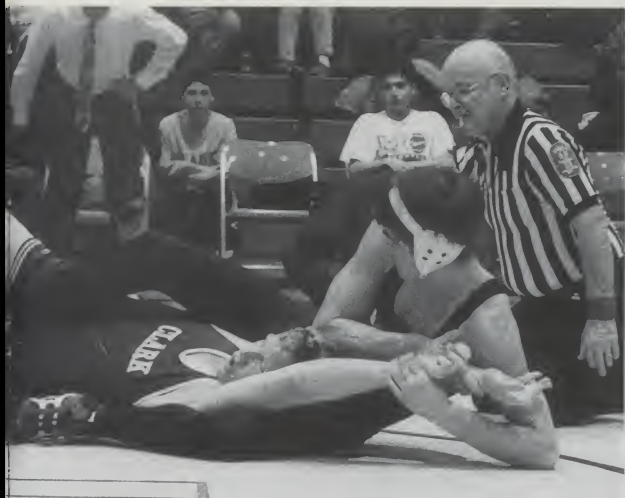
FLIPPED by a Clark defender, freshman Keith Henman struggles unsuccessfully to free himself. The Panthers lost the match by a score of 47-25 dropping their record down to 19-11.

—Mike Podgorny

LOCKING up with his opponent, junior Joseph Bonnema prepares for a takedown. Bonnema held a win/loss record of 14-3 and was a '97 Semi-state qualifier.

—Mike Podgorny





HOLDING down his opponent, senior Michael Callender fights to hang on with his legs. Callender ranked second in Sectionals, was a semi-state qualifier and held a win/loss record of 31-6.

-Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

18	Chesterton	51
30	East Chicago	53
42	Connersville	35
30	Lowell	49
24	Valparaiso	54
56	Clark	24
18	Yorktown	55
60	Brebuaf	24
60	New Prairie	22
84	West Side	0
71	Hanover Central	6
19	Valparaiso	42
40	Gavit	24
19	Mishawaka	51
27	S.B. Riley	47
65	F.W. Leo	9
55	S.B. Adams	29
57	Hammond High	22
72	Andean	6
54	Knox	18
36	Kankakee Valley	42
27	Lowell	51
59	Andean	9

Conference

57	Bishop Noll	17
60	Hammond	16
72	Whiting	6
58	Morton	18
42	Gavit	21
37	Munster	39
38	Highland	32
47	Clark	25
23	Calumet	34
2nd	Conference	
2nd	Sectional	

TAKE DOWN

Wrestlers bring rivals to the mat

The boys' wrestling team had a winning season and a 7-2 conference record. On top of this, they beat Highland, who was one of their biggest rivals.

Some wrestlers felt that team unity was a key point in achieving their victories.

"We came together and were able to beat Highland, who was ranked ahead of us. This was a real confidence booster," said senior Michael Tsirtsis.

Most members attributed their 20-12 record to the team's cohesiveness.

"I think as a team we really pulled together to have a really great season," said senior Michael Bierman.

Several wrestlers thought that the coaches' attitudes helped build confidence.

"The coaches had a lot of confidence in the beginning of the season," said Tsirtsis. "We never really gained confidence until the end of the season."

Other teammates agreed that the coaches' outlook helped to strengthen morale.

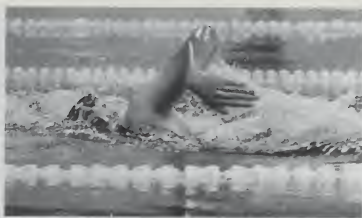
"The coaches were more laid back this year which enabled us to have much more fun as we began to win," said Bierman.

The team's win over Highland was a major triumph, and one of their goals for the '97-'98 season is to beat another major rival, Calumet.

-Josh Martin

CATCHING a breath, sophomore **Melissa Steapleton** comes up for air while doing the breaststroke. Steapleton brought up the teams points by breaking records.

Mike Podgorny



Front Row: Rob Gass(head coach), Tracy Mazzone, Laura Zagrocki, Sharon Gardner, Barb Curnow(assistant coach) Second Row: Abigail Forbes, Lindsay Zimmerman, Melissa Steapleton, Mary Belcher Third Row:Nicole Frank, Amanda Paul, Cari-Ann Zimmerman, Tiffany Henson, Jessica Everhart



GLIDING through the water, sophomore **April Plebanski** does the butterfly at a meet against Hammond High. This was Plebanski's second season on the team.

Bryan Duncy

DISPLAYING her talent, junior **Amy Sears** dives at a meet for the judges. Sears' dives served as a model for other divers.

Bryan Duncy





TOWELING off after her event at a meet, sophomore **Laura Zagrocki** tries to keep warm. Zagrocki swam freestyle for her first year on the team. —Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

133	Hammond	36
	High	
62	Highland	121
57	Munster	123
87	E.C. Central	10
66	Lowell	118
135	Calumet	4
91	Hobart	88
45	Gavit	56
73	Rensselaer	109
100	S. Newton	75
32	Lake Central	151
48	Crown Point	134
87	Kankakee Valley	92
95	Bishop Noll	66

1st Griffith Invite

4th Lake 10
Conference

3rd Fresh/Soph.
Conference

4th Sectionals

BROKEN RECORDS

200 Free Relay
Melissa Steapleton
broke the record for 100
Backstroke and 100
Breaststroke

SPLISH, SPLASH

Swimmers build self-confidence

Splashing into a new swimming season was a positive activity for GHS swimmers. It helped them build up their self-confidence and also helped them out in making some new friends.

Swimming helped these students feel better about themselves by relieving some of the pressures put on them by other activities.

"Swimming gave me a lot of self-confidence. It made me feel like I could accomplish something that not many people could do," said junior **Stephanie Smith**.

People chose different sports for different reasons. Some did it for their own pure enjoyment and excitement, and others did it just to get some exercise.

"I get exercise and excitement out of swimming. It's something to do that you're good at," explained junior **Tracy Mazzone**.

Leaving the underclassmen to take on next year, seniors don't to worry about leaving an inexperienced team behind.

"The underclassmen will all do pretty well. I think they'll do a lot better and break more records," said senior **Tiffany Henson**.

All in all, the swimmers had a record breaking season with high hopes for next year.

—Sara Biehl

MAKING a splash, freshman Timothy Krebs swims the backstroke during a meet. Krebs broke the 100 yard breaststroke record with a time of 1:04.43.

Mike Podgorny



FRONT ROW: Joseph Warrick, Timothy Krebs, Phillip Patrick, Eric Scott, Rob Gass (head coach), John Schaffenberger (assistant coach), Manuel Longoria Second Row: George Scott, Shaun Doyle, Joshua Michalak, Robert Blessing, Daniel Santare, Adam Wartsbaugh Back Row: Eric Taylor, Kevin Riese, Karl Grimmer, David Schaffenberger, Glen Boyzwright, Brad Michalak, Curtis Lamm Not pictured: Joshua Martin



FINISHING a lap, freshman Eric Scott swims the backstroke during practice. The long practices paid off for the boys, as they beat Crown Point for the first time in the school's history.

Mike Podgorny

LEAPING off the block, junior George Scott prepares to race. Scott has been a member of the team since his freshman year.

Mike Podgorny



RACING to victory, sophomore Kevin Riese swims the freestyle in a meet against E.C. Central. The boys triumphed over E.C. Central, 81-11. Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

84	Highland	102
119	Hobart	60
123	Rensselaer	62
138	S. Newton	21
117	Calumet	59
135	Hammond High	42
93	Munster	83
52	Lake Central	131
97	Crown Point	86
94	Kankakee Valley	89
140	Bishop Noll	21
81	E.C. Central	11
71	Gary Roosevelt	22
106	Gavit	61
118	Lowell	58
6th	Munster Relays	
1st	Gavit Invite	

3rd Lake 10
Conference

2nd Frosh/Soph
Conference

3rd Sectionals

I

N THE FAST LANE

Panthers pull ahead of Munster

It's not often that a swimming team can say they beat Munster. But that's exactly what the boys' swimming team did. Their success against Munster was the first in the history of the school.

Most of the swimmers felt that beating Munster was the best thing about the season.

"We surpassed all but our highest expectations," said senior Robert Blessing. "We overcame many barriers by beating Munster."

The team thought, that despite their win over Munster, improvements could have been made.

"We could have had a better attitude when we went to certain meets and at practice," said sophomore David Schaffenberger. "We needed to be serious about more things."

Social activities were something that many team members thought there should have been more of.

"We needed less isolation from certain team members," said senior Eric Taylor. "We didn't participate in enough team activities."

Despite the fact that some areas of the team could have been improved, the team still finished with a 13-2 record and broke a 33-year losing streak against Munster. -Josh Martin

STRETCHING her legs, sophomore Sarah Jansen loosens up before practice. This was Jansen's first year in track where she ran the 200m dash.

-Gina Menchaca



Front Row: Mary Belcher, Amie Kielbasa, Tracy Mazzone, Caryn Miller, Amy Zagrocki, Shannon Swope, Sarah Kagel, Kathryn Mochon, Paula Dunnet (asst. coach) Second Row: Bernie Zemen (coach), Lindsey Vrane, Rebecca Amos, Tania Fliter, Sarah Jansen, Lauren Davis, Jennifer Spiegel, Angela Summers, Nikki Haluska Third Row: Nicole Hart, Jessica Meece, Tennille Grasha, Arianna Hecht, Amanda Paul, Darci Bieszczt, Fran Costello, Carrie Hanchar, Katina Chappa



ATENDING the sports banquet, senior Jessica Meece accepts and award from Athletic Director Jim Anderson. Meece was injured during the outdoor season with a stress fracture in her foot.

-Anthony Papa

RECIEIVING the baton from junior Fran Costello, senior Darci Bieszczt runs the second leg in the 4x800m relay. Both Costello and Bieszczt ran the open 800m.

-Bryan Duney





I

N THE LONG RUN

Girls deal with small team

WORKING for position, senior Amy Zagrocki runs the 1600m run at Conference. Zagrocki also ran the 3200m run at Regionals where she qualified for State
-Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

75 E.C. Central 45
Lake Station 37

71 Hanover 62
Central 38
Hobart

68 Gavit 43
Clark 40

47 Highland 68
Hammond High 31

55 Morton 59
Munster 50

49 Bishop Noll 87
Calumet 21

Highland Invite
77 Lowell 98
Hanover Central 90

Munster Invite
95 Andean 117

Calumet Invite
58 Hanover 95
Central
Highland 79

3rd Conference
Championship

4th Sectionals

BROKEN RECORDS

Caryn Miller:
100m hurdles 16.7s
200m hurdles 47.8s

What do you do when you have one of the smallest track teams in conference? It's simple. You compete a lot. That's exactly what the Girls' Track team did.

"We probably have the smallest team in conference," said junior **Fran Costello**, "and it has gotten even smaller as the season has progressed."

With fewer runners each individual had a bigger position to fill.

"It is hard because everyone has to run about three events and we have hardly any field events, which really hurt us," said Costello.

But being part of a smaller team did have its good points according to junior **Jennifer Spiegel**.

"Our small team allowed us to get to know each other better," said Spiegel.

Senior **Darci Biesczat** agreed that a larger team could have helped their performance, but all in all they handled it well.

"The small numbers did hurt the team but we performed very well," said Biesczat. "We had 13 or 14 girls participate at conference and we still got third place."

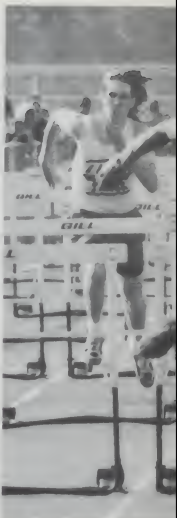
With one of their "true assets," senior Jessica Meece, out due to and injury, the girls had to pull together a little more and try a little harder. Even the freshmen stepped up to fill in the gap.

"Our freshmen are showing a lot of talent," said Spiegel. "With more training they should be able to go far."

Whether old runners or newcomers, the team learned to work with small numbers to pull it all together for an enjoyable season. -Vanessa Cutka

WATCHING a race seniors Mark Eaton, Eric Johnson and Glen Boganwright and sophomore Josh Fisher wait for their turn. High jumpers Johnson and Boganwright often had to wait long periods of time for their event.

-Mike Podgorny



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WAITING patiently, juniors Jeff Eaton and Dennis Palucki pose for pictures with their awards at the sports banquet. This banquet was held in the school cafeteria for all spring sports. -Tony Papa

SOARING through the air, junior Shane Tinich tries to make it over the bar. This was the only event that Tinich participated in at the Highland Invite. -Mike Podgorny





ALMOST PERFECT

Boys capture three championships

It has been a trend that over the past few years the boys' track team has gone undefeated in the regular season. For the first time since Head Coach **Russ Radtke** took charge of the team, they did not accomplish this task.

"Munster was the biggest obstacle for us," said junior **Jason Hubbard**. "They were the only team to beat us and they gave us our 31-1 record."

Even though they weren't undefeated, the team felt they had an excellent season anyway.

"I was pleased with the 31-1 record," said senior **Glen Boganwright**. "It would have been nice to go undefeated, but it was a good record to go out on."

Despite their disappointing loss to Munster, the team did well in other competitions over the season.

"Winning the Hobart Little 5 was the best thing about the season," said sophomore **Jeremy Bratton**. "It was the biggest meet besides the Lake 10 Conference."

Although the goal of being undefeated never came about, the team was still able to improve upon many personal bests and win their third conference championship in the last four years.

-Josh Martin

FINISHING the 110 meter high hurdles, junior **Ibrahim Brewer** goes head to head with a Hammond High runner. Brewer also qualified for state in this event.

-Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

74	Hammond	54
	High	
74	Morton	38
68.5	Munster	79
68.5	Highland	19
87	Gavit	41
87	Clark	38
91	Bishop Noll	51
91	Calumet	24

Lake 10 Conference

Griffith	96
Munster	89
Morton	81
Hammond High	75
Clark	74
Bishop Noll	73
Gavit	71
Highland	46
Calumet	16

Hobart Little 5

Griffith	103
Crown Point	74
Hobart	63
River Forest	42
Gary Wirt	28

Lowell Relays

Griffith	99
Lowell	92
Hanover Central	63
Lake Station	31
River Forest	30



V Front Row: Candice Rossner, Traci Duncan, Michelle Adame Second Row: Michelle Castillo (asst. coach), Laura Strinhubel, Bethany Morris, Diane Canady, Ami McQueary, Laura Zagrocki, Edwin Flores (asst. coach) Back Row: David Turner (asst. coach), Rebecca Rhyne, Michelle Blessing, Danielle Garnett, Jennifer Linders, Natalie Miller, Jorie Flores, Bruce Turner (head coach).



JV Front Row: Jennifer McQueary, Emily Coddington, Samantha Adame Second Row: Nicole Huber, Lindsay Beigle, Carrie Giltmeier, Sarah Bacan, Laura Worley, Nicole Popovich, Emily Rutledge Back Row: Samantha Quintaro, Marisa Garibay, Nancy Robles, Beth Connell, Jennifer Huesken, Jessica Everhart, Kelly Loudner, Edwin Flores (coach).



ROUNDING second base, junior Candice Rossner runs towards third. Rossner was the high scorer of the season with 17 points.

—Mike Podgorny

WINDING up for the pitch, junior Ami McQueary fires another one over the plate. The team earned the title of co-conference champs, along with Munster.

—Mike Podgorny



ATTEMPTING to tag another player out junior Jennifer Linders reaches for the base. Linders has been on the team since her freshman year and plays shortstop.

-Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

6	Boone Grove	1
8	Crown Point	2
6	Highland	4
3	Hobart	0
2	Andrean	7
0	Portage	4
1	Fenwick	2
1	Fenwick	4
5	Lowell	4
1	Lake Central	5
10	Hanover Central	0
13	North Newton	1
5	S.B. LaSalle	2
10	Twin Lakes	0
3	Highland	2

Conference

15	Hammond High	0
7	Bishop Noll	6
12	Clark	0
0	Gavit	2
11	Whiting	1
3	Highland	0
15	Calumet	0
2	Morton	1
2	Munster	0

Sectionals

3	Andrean	0
1	Merrillville	2

HEADING HOME

Girls shoot for common goal

After spending the entire season preparing to defeat Merrillville, the softball team's hopes were crushed when the Pirates edged them out at the second game of sectionals.

"We really wanted to beat Merrillville this year," said junior **Jorie Flores**. "They beat us twice in past years and we knew we'd be playing them in sectionals."

According to senior **Rebecca Rhyne**, the team could have beaten Merrillville and some of the other teams if they had been more intense.

"We would get really laid back because we knew we were good and the teams we were playing would be easy," said Rhyne.

Many of the team members thought that, despite the early sectional loss, the team still did well and had a good time.

"We all got along real well right off the bat," said junior **Michelle Blessing**. "We were able to get down to business right away."

Even though they didn't overcome Merrillville, the hard work paid off as the team finished the season with a record of 10-5 in the regular season and 8-1 in conference.

-Josh Martin



V Front Row: Don Chidichimo (asst. coach), Gerald Daley, Jeff Koneguski (last row), Jason O'Donnel, Josh Todd, Nathan Liechty, Jeremy Buzza, Ryan Skomac, Bryan King (last boy), Angela Bishop (mgr.) Second Row: Felix Rosa, Donald Hill, Michael Chidichimo, Andrew Kohut, Salvador Aguilar, Justin Lebata Back Row: Bob Hattenbach (coach), Michael Chynoweth, Danny Ahart, Kevin Schaller, Michael Callender, Danny Anderson, Jim Terpstra, Daniel Falda, Steve Holzbach, Daniel Gomez, Heidi Terpstra (mgr.), Todd Iwema (coach)



JV Front Row: Christopher Brookhart, Ian Flores, Jeremy Buzza, William Torres, Christopher Pike Second Row: Dale Rudzinski, Ryan Towasnicki, Ryan Hill, Matthew Flannery, Christopher Babbitt, David Mazzacco, Gerald Daley (coach) Back Row: Joe Schultz, Patrick Fuentes, Eddie Covarrubias, David Carnahan, Matthew Sherry, Christopher Troksa



TAKING a swing at the ball, junior Salvador Aguilar follows through. Aguilar was a third baseman. *Mike Podgorny*

THROWING out the pitch, senior Danny Anderson fires another one over the plate. Anderson filled the position of pitcher in his senior year of baseball. *Mike Podgorny*





ATTEMPTING a bunt, senior Michael Callender keeps his eye on the ball. He has played baseball since the Babe Ruth League.

Mike Podgorny

FOR THE RECORD

GHS

OPP.

6	Lake Station	5
3	Andreon	13
11	Hanover Central	0
8	Clark	3
3	Calumet	1
5	Highland	6
2	Morton	12
5	Bishop Noll	8
0	Munster	9
1	Chesterton	10
5	Hammond High	7
5	Whiting	4
7	Calumet	4
1	Gavit	8
4	Clark	5
2	Highland	21
10	Morton	17
8	Bishop Noll	26
2	Lake Central	28
2	Munster	10
1	Hammond High	2
13	Whiting	25
8	Crown Point	12
8	River Forest	0
5	Gavit	11
3	Lowell	2
6	E.C. Central	7
3	Hobart	12
1	Lake Central	5

HITTING HARD

Baseball team toughs it out

Things don't always go as planned and that can be upsetting, especially when it comes to sports.

"We were planning on having a great season," said junior Nathan Liechty. "But some things just did not go right for us."

Of course, winning more games will always make a season look better but there are often circumstances that lead to a less than spectacular season.

"We didn't play and act like a family at first like in past years," said junior Steve Holzbach. "We all got along well after awhile."

Whether winning or losing, the players were able to keep things enjoyable. The team took a break from a Saturday practice to play paintball.

But not all days could be happy. Sophomore Ian Flores shared the emotion of their loss at the start of sectionals.

"Some of the seniors were crying because it was their last high school game," said Flores. "It was sad."

Although things got better towards the end, according to Holzbach, they needed a solid start. "We need to start the season off strong and play every game like it's our last," he said.

-Vanessa Cutka

CHIPPING the ball, junior Noah Zondor carefully swings through to get the ball on the green. Zondor played in the third position on the team.

-Mike Podgorny



FRONT ROW: Noah Zondor, Tim Kulinski, Jason Carroll, Bob Blessing, Jeremy Boilek, Paul Blahunka, assistant coach Tom Wells, head coach Larry Parker, Matt Thon, Joel Bratton, Ryan Melton, Tim Turkowski, Matt Najjar, Tony Papa.



TEEING off at Scherwood Golf Course, junior Jeremy Boilek swings at the ball. Boilek was the only team member to advance to regionals.

-Mike Podgorny

FOLLOWING through with his swing, sophomore Tim Turkowski watches the path of his ball down the fairway. Turkowski played in the fifth position on the team.

-Tony Papa



WAITING for his opponent from Hanover Central to hit the ball, junior Jason Carroll examines his nails to pass the time. Carroll was fourth on the team.

Tony Papa

FOR THE RECORD

GHS OPP.

176	Hanover Central	166
169	Gavit	207
178	Calumet	252
169	Merrillville	169
168	Morton	225
176	Whiting	215
181	Highland	181
165	Bishop Noll	189
167	Clark	196
172	Munster	156
167	Hammond High	226
177	Lowell	178
191	Crown Point	159
183	River Forest	207
183	Lake Station	206
14th	LaPorte Invite	
7th	Lake Central Invite	
2nd	Lake 10 Conference	
4th	Sectionals	

SWING OF SUCCESS

Team learns value of practice

Improvement. It's the goal of many teams. To know that they have improved their game gives a sense of satisfaction and hope for a better season. It's something that the golf team accomplished at the completion of their season.

"The team has improved drastically," said junior **Jeremy Boilek**. "The only way to improve is through practice and dedication, which all of us have already done."

The team showed their dedication and hard work by obtaining a record of 11-4 and by finishing in second place in the Lake Ten Conference. Even though they played well and became better as the season progressed, they still felt shaky about sectionals.

"We all got better, more confident towards the end of the season, but we could have played better in sectionals," said sophomore **Tim Turkowski**. "We were just really nervous about it."

Nervous or not, they still managed to finish fourth in sectionals, and Boilek advanced to regionals, where he did not manage to place. *-Lydia Whitehead*

OUT WITH THE OLD

New coach brings memories

When a new coach takes over a sports team, he brings with him new ideas, new strategies, and new ways to coach. The girls' tennis team welcomed a new coach this year, Patrick Leser. Their previous coach, Tim Maluga, opened up a coffee shop in Valparaiso, which made him unavailable to coach the girls. The team liked both coaches, but each coach had his differences.

"I liked Tim because he cooked for us, and he was really nice," said senior Beth Hudacin. "Pat was always very punctual, and he did what he said he'd do for the most part."

Leser brought with him more practices, protein bars and drinks, and a new system of challenging for positions. Maluga took with him Slurpees, fun end-of-the-year awards, and his home cooking.

"I liked the challenge matches because it kept you on your toes and gave you more stamina to play better," commented sophomore Meagan Clarke. "But I will miss Tim's Slurpees at tennis camp."

The girls didn't have a favorite coach; they liked each for their own reasons. While this season was what one would call a rebuilding year, the girls experienced new things and had fun at the same time.

-Melissa White



Front Row: Lindsay Chapa, Jaci Bolsega, Andjela Subotic, Keirstin Nagy, Claire Hudacin, Colleen Vechey Second Row: Nikki Huitsing, Stacey Schafer, Melissa Steapleton, Melissa White, Laura Purgert, Lena Steinhubel, Meagan Clarke, Sharon Gardner Third Row: Trisha Fleischman, Kim Sines, Angela Rauscher, Jenny Dalach, Lydia Whitehead, Beth Hudacin, Patrick Leser(coach)

FOR THE RECORD

	<u>GHS</u>	<u>OPP.</u>
0	Whiting	5
5	Morton	0
1	Lake Station	4
0	Chesterton	5
1	Clark	4
1	Merrillville	4
0	Crown Point	5
3	Hammond	2
4	Bishop Noll	1
0	Andrean	5
0	Munster	5
0	Highland	5
2	Calumet	3
5	Morton	0
2	Clark	3
0	River Forest	5
0	Portage	5

Sectionals

3	Calumet	2
0	Crown Point	5



TOSSING up a serve, senior Lena Steinhübel warms up at Munster High School. The team was scheduled to play Calumet, but the match was rained out.
-Mike Podgorny

ALL tied up in the school van, senior Beth Hudacin passes the time away while waiting for Calumet to show up. Hudacin, along with senior Angela Rauscher, played first varsity doubles.
-Mike Podgorny



RETURNING a shot to her opponent, freshman Lindsay Chapar perfects her backhand. The GHS tennis team defeated Calumet but lost to Crown Point in their sectionals.
-Mike Podgorny

BREAK A LEG

Injuries cause pain to benched players

Feeling the rush of the game and the excitement of the crowd, the football player readies himself for another play. The ball is snapped and he moves to receive a pass from his teammate. Grabbing the ball, he finds a hole in the defensive line and tears down the field towards the end zone. He hears the crowd roaring and cheering him on his path to victory. Wham! Not ten yards from scoring a touchdown he is slammed to the ground by his opponent. With a look of agony on his face, he is now more concerned with the sharp pain shooting up his leg than with the numbers on the scoreboard.

Athletes' injuries were not only devastating because their body was wounded but it also caused them to be benched for part of or the entire season to heal and be able to play next season. For seniors, injuries in their last season of high school had an even greater effect.

"It upsets me sometimes cause it's my last season and I want to be out on the track running," said senior **Jessica Meece**, who experienced a stress fracture in her leg during track practice. "I also wanted to try and make it to state, but I won't be in as good shape than if I had been able to stay in track for the whole season."

Even for players who were non-seniors, not playing in the game had almost the same effect. Junior **Rene Reyna**, after fainting from hyperventilation in the third quarter of a basketball game, was disappointed to have missed out on the game.

"It was rough not being able to get in and run up and down the court," said Reyna. "I went to all the practices and helped out as best I could, but it just wasn't the same. The whole time I was out I wished I could've been out (on the court) there with my friends."

From football to track, injuries were a part of every sport. Even though the players longed to be in the game while benched during their injuries, most of them eventually recovered and were able to be a part of the team once again.

-Lydia Whitehead



ASSISTED by girls basketball coach **Tim Powers**, freshman **Samantha Quintero** attempts to get up painlessly. Quintero sprained her ankle after trying to dodge two opponents and falling to the floor.

-Mike Podgorny



PRACTICING for graduation, senior **Jessica Meece** walks across the platform with an air cast on her foot. Meece experienced a stress fracture in her leg while running during track practice.

-Fay Netos



STRAPPED to a stretcher, sophomore Chris Hitt waits to be wheeled into an ambulance after hurting his knee during football playoffs against Hammond. "I was at the hospital for two hours (that night). I had to go in (to the hospital) three days a week for about three months and never I knew to wear a brace when I play," said Hitt.

-Mike Podgorny

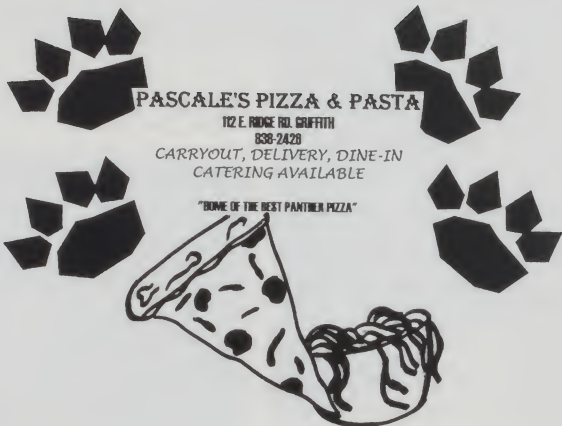
WATCHING his teammates gather on the field, freshman Nick Crawford waits on the sideline during another varsity football game. Crawford tore tendons in his knee during a freshman football game and after surgery was sidelined for six to seven weeks. "I knew I couldn't play so I started lifting weights for my knees so I could come back," said Crawford.

-Mike Podgorny



BENCHED on the bleachers, senior Carrie Cable spends the end of her Pantherette season as a spectator. Cable was practicing for competition and did a move that dislocated her shoulder which had her sitting out till the end of the year.

-Mike Podgorny



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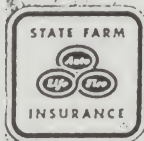
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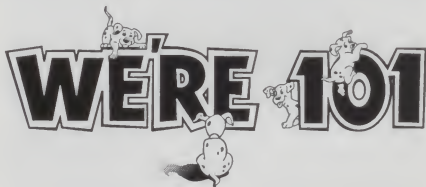
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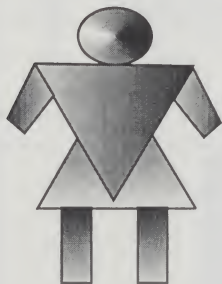
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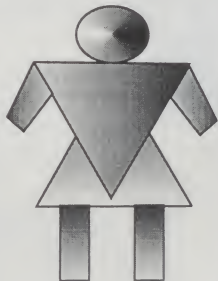
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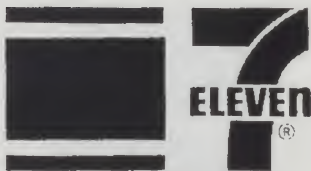


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Good luck
to the
1997
Varsity
Baseball
Team

S.A.D.D.

1996-1997

The following Patrons, Reflector staff, and S.A.D.D. members would like to discourage everyone from drinking and driving throughout the year and into the summer.

Mrs. Miklusak

Griffith Grandmothers#108

Todd D. Iwema

Brenda Price

Mike & Nancy Stout

Mrs. Kim Vessell

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kovacs, Jr.

Richard Osinski Family

Mrs. Sue Brown

Mr. Bob Witt

Mr. Jim Graff

Mr. Bill Platt

Mrs. Kim Vessel

Mr. Dan McCoy

Mr. Charles Emlund

Kevin & Bonnie Kern

Carolyn Brown

Party Liquors

Betty L. Weber

Adam Nickles

Dear Adam,

We can't believe you're gone away,
It's hard to accept day after day,
You're safe in heaven now we know,
But we miss your laughter and your touch,
We miss you oh so very much,
In our hearts you'll always stay,
Until we meet again one day.
In our hearts and thoughts always

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Kirk

Angela Rancher

Angie,

You're one remarkable daughter and
sister to us. You've made us so proud of the young
woman you have become.
The BEST of everything life
has to offer is our wish to you.
Thank-you for all the precious
memories you've given us.

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Fred



Josh Greca

Josh,

You didn't think you could do it, but
we always knew you could. You've given us
wonderful times and
great memories.
Whatever you choose,
can be yours. You're the
best!!!!

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Abby



Stacy Gang

Dear Stacy,

You will always be our favorite
daughter. You have
always made us so
proud. Best of luck in
all you do. We love you
so much.

Mom, Dad,
Rob, & Sport



Jenny Pelletier

Jenny,

The years have gone by so fast
and now you're on
your way to M. We've
always been proud of
you and we always will
be.

Love,
Dad & Mom



Mike Callender

Michael,

Congratulations!!! You have given us
many wonderful memories and great joy.
We are so proud of you!
May your future be filled
with happiness and love.
We will always be there
for you.

Love
Mom, Dad, & Matt



Stacey Matthews

Words cannot say what having a
daughter and sister like you has meant.

You've filled our lives
with joy and happiness.
May all your dreams
and wishes come true.
We love you so much.

Mom, Dad, & Jason



John Neighbors

Dear Buck,

The tests of life are not meant to
break you but to make you. Take charge
of yourself. You are
greater than you think.
We love you and are
proud of you.

Love
Mom, Dad, & Sam



Bob Blessing

Bob,

Thanks for being such a wonderful son, brother, and friend. We've taken great pride in watching you grow as a student, athlete, and most importantly, a man. Pursue your dreams with the knowledge that we'll always be there for you.

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Betsy, Michelle,
& Cubbie



Kristi Ramsey

Kristi,

Congratulations!! You made it! You have much to be proud about. You are the best daughter and sister anyone could have. We are proud of you & love you very much. We hope all your dreams come true.

Love
Dad, Mom, & Nathan



Jeanette Vickery

Jeanette,

You are so precious to us! We love you and are so proud of you! Whatever it takes, we'll always be there for you. "In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success," Proverbs 3:6.

All our Love,
Mom & Dad



Brandon Stogall

Brandon,

Congratulations! We are so very proud of you and especially the man you've become. You have a very bright future ahead, and with your determination and intelligence, you will reach your goals, and then some. For just being you, we love you very much. We are blessed to have you, and will always be here for you.

God Bless You,
Mom, Steve, Breanne, Mike, Rob, Brian, & Kevin

Angelo Bambin

*I believe in
you.
Love Always,
Mom*

Heather & Lisa Cundiff

It seems like only yesterday it was your kindergarten graduation. You both said in unison ("We did it!") How the years have passed. Now with the same sweet faces and innocent smiles, & with your hearts filled with love and laughter it's time to do it again. You've both given us a lifetime of memories to make us smile and laugh. We thank you for making your high school years easy for us as parents.

With Loving Pride
Always,
Mom & Dad



Mike Chidichimo

Michael,

Congratulations! You did it!
We're very proud
of you and wish you
the best in everything
you do. We love you.

Love,
Mom & Lumpy



Kerry Moriarty

Kerry,

Congratulations! We are all very proud of you. Never stop believing in yourself. Set your goals high and let nothing steer you from your path.

We love you,
Mom, Dad,
Kim, & Chris



Darci Bieszat

Dear Darci---

Here you are, ready for college. Where did the time go? We are so very proud of all of your accomplishments. There is no doubt in our minds, that with your determination, you will be a success! You know we're always there for you.

We Love You
Mom & Dad

Mike Gauler

Mike,
Congratulations and
best wishes for a healthy,
happy, and successful future.
Love,
Dad & Mom

Kris Matson & Friends

Jeremy, Mike, Kevin, Josh, & Kris:

We can't believe it's over. We don't know about you guys but we had a blast! You guys are truly the BEST and have grown into wonderful young men. We are so proud of all of you. Good luck in whatever you do and stay friends.

Love, The Matsons, & The Schallers

Katrina Bailey

Katrina,

Where has the time gone? Congratulations on your graduation. You are so very special to us and we are proud of you. Always remember that we LOVE you and all things are possible through our Lord. Good luck in reaching your dreams and goals.

Love,
Mom & Dad
P.S. Grandmas would be proud.



Katie Rivich

You are the wind beneath
my wings.
Love,
Mom



Jeff Sako

Jeff,
Follow your dreams & don't ever give up.
We're very proud of you!
Love,
Mom, Jeff, & Lisa



Kris Matson

Kris,
Words can't express how proud you have made us. You are a very special son & brother. Thanks for all the great memories. We wish you good health, happiness, & the best life can offer. Believe in yourself and you will succeed in whatever you do and remember. We will always be here for you.
ALL OUR LOVE,
Mom, Dad, & Ada



Kelly McFadden

Dear Kelly,
You are still the frosting on the cake! You usually have the ability to handle a sticky situation. Keep it up for always and forever.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Cindy, & Josh



Tony Nelson

Congratulations Tony!

We are so very proud of you! We wish you all the success and happiness you deserve. Work hard and have confidence in yourself and you WILL succeed. We will always be here for you.

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Tom, & Crystal



Dawn Pinkerton

I wish I could give you ALL good things that life has to offer but since I can't I will give you what I can encouragement in whatever you do and love now and ALWAYS.

I LOVE YOU,
MOM



Angela Bishop

Angela,

Congratulations! We're very proud of you.

Be happy and always believe in yourself. We will always be there for you and you will be our princess.

Love,
Mom & Dad



Mike Bierman

Congratulations Mike!!

We are all so proud of you! We wish for you the best in everything you do. You have a great future before you.

Love,
Dad, Marcia, Tim,
Mady, & Misha

Courtney Finney

Courtney,

We did it! After all we've been through I can't believe it! I couldn't have done it without you! We've really only just begun!

Best Friends Forever,
Kerry Beth

Amber Hashins

Congratulations. We're very proud of you. May your life be filled with good health, happiness, and success. You're very special to us.

We Love You.

Mom, Dad, & Ron

Beth,

Congratulations on all of your many accomplishments. You've made us so proud over the past years and we know you will continue to do well at all you do. Keep smiling.

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Claire



Beth Hudacins

Congratulations and all our love to a very special daughter and sister! Remember, being yourself is all it takes for success and good friends!! Thank you, Tara for making it so easy to be so proud of you! Go Purdue!!

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Tim



Tara Galambos

Rebecca Leffel

Our hearts are engraved with treasured memories. The present is exciting to behold!
May God richly bless
and light your future
paths.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Christina,
& Jaclyn



Jonathon Spencer

Expectation at birth: Unknown

Expectation at graduation: Unlimited

Jonathon, God has worked a miracle in
your life continue serving Him,
no telling how far He will lead.

Love,
Mother & Dad

Carl Goust

Carl,

To our little buddy, who isn't so little
anymore.
Congratulations!
You made it! We are
so proud of you!

Love Ya,
Mom, Dad, & Kristi



Danielle Kovacs

Danielle (Grammy)

We are so proud of you and all of your
accomplishments at GHS. May you always
strive for the highest of
goals in life to bring out
your best abilities. We will
always love you.

Love always,
Mom, Dad,
Stephen, & Oreo Cookies



Carrie Cable

Thank you for being that special "little girl" who
has filled our lives with so much joy and happiness! As
our daughter and sister, we are so very proud of you and
all you've accomplished! We
wish you all the happiness,
joy, and luck life can give!

All our love and best wishes
will be with you always!

All Our Love,
Mom, Dad, & Eric



Erica Fisher

My little girl graduating again!
I'm so very proud of you. Shoot
4 the moon Erica, cuz even if you
miss you'll be hangin' with the
stars! Good luck at Purdue!

Love You,
Mom



Dave Faldia

David,

Every teenager should enjoy high school as much
as you have. We're so proud of all your accomplishments
and achievements. Let that
special personality, and
smile guide you into your
future. Good Luck David!
May your dreams come true,
and remember we're always
there for you!

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, & Dan



Chrissy Doyle

Chrissy, Our Tinker,

We are very proud of you. You've worked very
hard to accomplish your goals in high school. You can
do anything you want. We'll
miss you next year while you
pursue your dream. Best
wishes, we love you
very much.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Shawn,



Kevin Schaller

To Kevin:
We are all very proud of you
Buck! Love you very much
and know you will succeed
in whatever you do. Have
fun.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Scott, & Bryan



Karyn Bartnicki

Karyn,
To our ever smiling sweetheart-We're
so very proud of you! We look forward to
sharing in your dreams
and future
accomplishments.

Love You Always,
Mom & Dad



Heather Wright

Heath,
Seems like yesterday that we brought you home
from the hospital and now we're looking at college. Always
remembers, life is what you
make of it. Congratulations,
be happy and believe in
yourself. I do!!!

Love,
MomXOXO



Carrie Bellamy

You were my first born and I was
so proud. Later you became the Big Sister
to follow and now a
Mom. The road is
yours to carve but we
have faith in all that
you will achieve.

Love Always,
Mom, Erica, Ken, & Jenna



Mikee Podgorny

Dear Mike,
Surprise! Yeah right, I forgot you know
everything! I've decided to redecorate my house, and I was
wondering if I could borrow a
couple of your awards. Wow-
what a year-Now hopefully
you can look back on it
remembering the good times.
Good Luck in your
photography (education?)
career.

Miss Brown



Michelle Aldrin

Dear Michele,
You will always be our little angel. We
are very proud of all your
accomplishments. Good
Luck at Purdue! God
bless you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, John,
& Chad



Jeanette Vickery

Dear Jeanette,
Surprise! I just wanted to thank you again for all the work you put
into this year's Reflector. You grew and adjusted to your position as editor so
much since the beginning of the year, and
I am very proud of you for that. I am
also very proud of the design, theme
development, and stories you did for the
book. I have truly enjoyed working with
you this year and wish you all the best in
the future. Keep in touch!

Love,
Miss Brown



Sara Biehl

Dear Sara,
I've always said Mark Grace was the most under appreciated
major league baseball player. Every year he gets passed up for the all star team,
despite his unrequited defensive range and consistent offense. This year, Sara
you were a lot like my (3rd) favorite
Cub- super talented with little
recognition. You were a tremendous
asset to the success of the 1997 Reflector.
Your hard work planning, working on
the under, and "punch hitting" for every
section of the yearbook is truly
appreciated by me and by the entire
Reflector staff. Good Luck Sara. I'll
miss you.

Love, Miss Brown



M

That's...

What's Goin' On?

Wow, what a year! Can you believe it, Angie? Everyone said our senior year would go by fast. Boy, were they right! It seems like just yesterday we were trying on our caps and gowns in the mirror and dreaming about that special day. Now my cap and gown are hanging in my closet ready to be put in the attic.

I was so bummed that the graduation ceremony was inside. It was so weird, because that morning I was extremely excited; the weather was perfect, but of course it had to rain an hour before. It was unbearably hot in the gym, probably because of all the people that attended. It seemed like everyone brought their whole family!

Well anyways, I'm looking forward to all those kickin' graduation parties! We should go with Stacey, Adam, and Kris. We always have a blast together. So did you find a summer job, yet? Man, I should have started saving for college a lot earlier. Oh well, have you registered for your college classes? I haven't, but I will soon. This summer is going to go by super fast. Doesn't it feel good to think that we don't have to go to high school anymore? I'm so excited about college, but I'll miss all the good times we had in high school.

We should go to the beach soon before this good weather disappears. I can't believe how long the cold weather lasted. It was so depressing. But now it is time for us to move on and start a whole new groovy life, whether we all find our life-long dreams at college, in the workplace, or in the military. But at least we can all remember the experience we have shared in this old "small town" called Griffith, as well as the time we've spent on Wiggs Street. Well, I'll probably see you around this summer. Keep in touch...



Winning Results!

Junior Varsity JETS team members, sophomores Jeff Vessell and Jonathan Soverly present Samuel Cox, principal with their 3rd place National trophies. "I was very excited (about their accomplishment). They did a fine job," said Cox. -Mike Podgorny



What's COIN' ON...

4-year college	60%
Employment	28%
2-year college	4%
Vocational school	4%
Military	2%

IN

the

FUTURE?

Facts represent the percentages of students at CHS who plan to pursue certain activities after high school. Source: CHS Guidance Department. Numbers are represented as of 1-31-97.



Help is on the way...

Acting as a mentor, senior Tara Galambos teaches sophomore Meagen Clarke the secrets to a successful yearbook. Galambos held both the positions of copy editor and album editor on the *Reflector* staff due to some last minute adjustments. -Mike Podgorny

What a Bummer!

Feeling a little under the weather from a car accident, senior Kerry Moriarty is presented a carnation from Barbara Deleget, senior class sponsor, after receiving her diploma. Moriarty was involved in the accident as she made her way to lunch on the last day of school. -Tony Papa

Beanie Baby Craze!

Cynthia Spejewski, music, looks over some donated Entertainment books, while WLS News interviews her about Chorale's problemated Beanie Baby fundraiser. Chorale lost around \$3000 from the fundraiser which was for their trip to San Diego. —Mike Podgorny



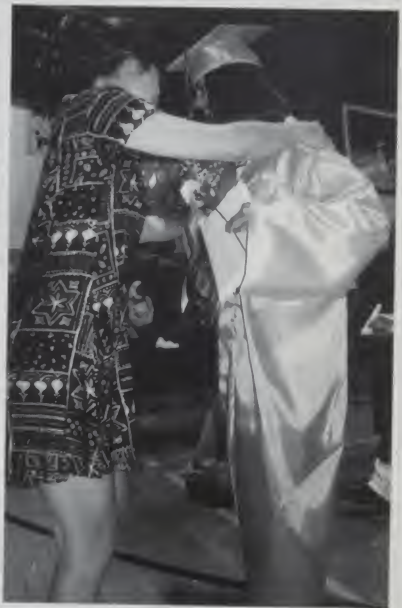
Parental Support

At the end of her first experience as an actress, senior Wendy Irvin receives a bouquet of flowers from her mother. Irvin played the part of Miep in the student-produced spring play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*. —Mike Podgorny

Congratulations!

After finally receiving her diploma, senior Christine Vavrek is greeted with a bouquet of flowers as well as a hug of congrats from a friend. Vavrek graduated fourteenth in her class.

—Tony Papa



GOLOPHON

The 1997 Griffith High School *Reflector* was produced throughout the school year by a staff consisting of 23 students under the supervision of Carolyn Brown, Journalism/English Department. The book was printed by Herff Jones at 6015 Travis Lane, PO Box 10, Shawnee Mission, Kansas. The account was serviced by Herff Jones representative Susan Taylor and customer

service adviser Julie Bogart.

Reflector Volume 56 was pieced together in Room S107, commonly known as the "J" Room, with 6 Macintosh LC II, a Macintosh IICx, 3 Power Macintosh 5300/100LC, and 3 brand new Power Macintosh 5260/120 computers all using the Pagemaker Elite program. All spreads were submitted to the plant on disks and were printed on 2 LaserWriter 16/600 PS printers purchased this year.

What's Goin' On? This back to the 70's theme was created by editor-in-chief Jeanette Vickery with the help of a few other staff members. The yearbook theme idea was conceived during the Herff Jones Journalism Workshop over the summer at Manchester College, and was then carried out and added to throughout the year.

This year the staff decided to submit a student produced cover. The sketches on the front cover were drawn by Justin Schwier, and the background art was produced by Melinda Serrano. Cover and colophon photos were taken by Mike Podgorny and Angela Summers. Due to the sale of advertisements, the staff was allowed to choose a flat of color (half full, half spot). The color, Sunflower was used on the end sheets, title page, Opening, and Student Life sections (pages 4-29). The theme pages as well as the end sheets were designed by Jeanette Vickery. The front end sheet was printed on white stock, and the back end sheet as well as the 200 pages were printed on Bordeaux Paper Stock.

This year the *Reflector* was divided into 5 sections. All copy was set in 11 point Palatino, and captions were set in 8 point Palatino. Headlines included the fonts Garamond Narrow and Klang MT (Student Life), Bodoni MT (Album and Academics), Nadianne (Clubs), Fritz (Sports), and Sunflower Bold and Klang MT (Cover and theme pages). Theme copy was set in 12.5 point Swing and 11 point Palatino.

Yearbook photographers shot more than 6500 frames of black and white, and color film using various types of cameras. All processing and printing was completed by the staff. However, the senior portraits, club photos and team photos were provided by Larry Titak Photography of Schererville, IN, and underclassmen photos by Interstate Studios.

The 1997 *Reflector* pre-sold 487 copies at prices starting from \$32 up to \$47, depending on the date of purchase.

The *Reflector* Staff is a member of the Indiana High School Press Association and the Quill and Scroll Society. This year as well as in past years the *Reflector* staff won many local as well as national awards for their work. The *Reflector* made the final round for the 1997 Hoosier Star Award and received recognition at Ball State University's Journalism Day and at the IHSPA State and JEA National Journalism Conventions.

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